

Ethics (COE)

ING 07-114

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2007 12:27 PM
To: 'alberto.torres@hklaw.com'
Subject: RE: Two-Year Rule

Mr. Torres,

I reviewed the facts you presented me and it is my opinion that you are permitted to appear at quasi-judicial hearings as an expert witness. Such appearances would not be considered lobbying and are not covered by the ban that restricts County employees from lobbying County officials/employees for a period of two years after leaving the County. Please understand that your appearances are limited to quasi-judicial hearings. Meeting with staff or appearing before the County Commission or other County boards when they are not acting in their quasi-judicial capacities is prohibited under the Two Year Rule.

If you have any other questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
(305) 350-0613

From: alberto.torres@hklaw.com [mailto:alberto.torres@hklaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2007 4:32 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Two-Year Rule

Dear Robert Meyers:

This is to request an advisory opinion. After over 27 years of public service with the County I resigned as Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning on May 15th, 2007 to work for the private sector. I am currently employed as a Land Use Consultant by the law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP. I work closely with the attorneys in the firm's real estate group. The attorney's often appear before various County boards and committees on behalf of clients including but not limited to the Board of County Commissioners, and the Community Zoning Appeals Boards.

Am I permitted to appear before the Board of County Commissioners or Community Zoning Appeals Boards during actual zoning public hearings, which are quasi-judicial in nature, for the purpose of providing testimony as an expert witness on behalf of clients?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Below is my contact information in case your office should need additional information or clarification.

Respectfully Yours,

Holland + Knight

Alberto J. Torres
Land Use Consultant

7/20/2007

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